

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

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Tallahassee, Friday, Dec. 1, 1935.

That was a handsome thing done by Hon. Robt. W. Davis, at Tampa, when he entertained at an elaborate dinner Governor Broward and his staff.

The sympathies of all good people go out to the temperance people of Marion county on account of their failure to carry the county "dry." They made a gallant fight and deserved success. The voters in any large town or city may be relied upon to vote "wet."

"Is it a fact that the Wailes interests are putting up the dough for The True Democrat? Don't answer too quick, and don't say anything rash."—Lake City Index.

We hesitated about answering the above at all, but concluded to say just this: The lying inuendo is entirely false, and the editor of the Index knew that it was when he concocted it.

"They do say" that the new edition of the Governor's Message now in press is to be neat and clean, that it is to be 100 copies and that the price is to be \$300. Now, who is to pay that \$300? That's the thing the tax-payers of Florida have a right to know, and shall know! There are yet copies of that first edition on hand; they belong to the people who have paid for them, and the people have a right to them if they wish them. And they are "bound in boards."

President McCurdy, of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, after vainly endeavoring to neutralize the indignation with which he is regarded by proposing to have his salary reduced to \$75,000, has had the good sense to resign his office in time to avoid being kicked out of it. His son, the general manager, and son-in-law, the general agent, have also resigned. These three, and their associates in crime, have doubtless concluded that their days of graft are over—for the present.

To those one or two Florida editors who have recently reminded us of the fact that, "The mill will never grind again with the water that has passed," we reply "That the mills of the Gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." That some day in the not distant future those who have and are still doing wrong in public places will get the grist the mills of justice turn out for their kind. Just be patient, and wait yet a little while, the truth will all come out at the thrashing.

Floridians, a number of times this year, have noted the influence of "a man out of office." When Governor Odell and Mr. Harriman, on the stand, contradicted Mr. Hyde's statement that the Equitable parasite corporations had been practically blackmailed by them into paying \$75,000 on Odell's losses in his shipbuilding bond deal, under threats that the Legislature would repeal their charter, Mr. Hyde neatly retorted: "People Out of Office are Sometimes More Influential than People in Office."

The committee of lawyers representing the Jacksonville Bar Association appointed to present to the Board of State Institutions the protest of the Association against the acceptance of the work of the State printer, visited the executive office and delivered a document to Governor Broward, probably a copy of the Association's resolutions, to be presented by him to the board. It was unfortunate that the committee did not have an opportunity to meet the board in session and orally argue in furtherance of the purposes of the protest.

Duval county politicians have begun to warm up things in that neck of the woods. They have as a starter, three candidates for State Senator, Hon. H. H. Buckman, Hon. Telfair Stockton and Hon. Stephen Melton. For Representative, General W. H. Selbring, and there will be many others. For Sheriff, five candidates, M. A. Brown, Governor Broward's appointee, W. B. Pickett, Eugene Dodge, Fleming Bowden and another. For County Treasurer, Forest Hyde and A. W. Barrs. For Assessor, Charles F. Verelst and A. L. Turner, and for Collector, John Rast and John F. Geiger. The primaries are yet a few weeks off, however, and there will probably be many other candidates.

FIXING THE BLAME.

The Polk County Record says: "The question of State printing has been receiving the attention of the State press for some time past. The Tallahassee True Democrat has made and substantiated some serious charges against the establishment turning out the State printing. Beyond doubt some shabby work, that is a disgrace to the State, has been turned out by this establishment as the following resolutions adopted by the Jacksonville Bar Association will signify"; and after copying the resolutions, it remarks: "This is the sentiment, not only of the Jacksonville Bar Association, but the people of this State as expressed in the State press. Such a condition is deplorable, and the State printer should be forced to fulfill his contract."

The Bartow Courier-Informant says: "The Jacksonville Bar Association has passed a series of resolutions severely arraigning the State printer for unnecessary delay in getting out official reports and the slipshod manner in which the work is done. The Tallahassee True Democrat has been after the public printer with a sharp stick for some time, and if half the things the bar association complains of are true, he deserves all the hard licks that the Democrat has given him. But if the evils that exist in this department are to be corrected, we must strike higher up. The Board of State Institutions, which is supposed to control the public printer and his work, is quite as much to blame as the printer himself for the unnecessary delay and poor work complained of."

Some time ago a contemporary took The True Democrat to task for remarking that money could not be drawn from the State Treasury unlawfully by any citizen or official without collusion on the part of those whose duty it is to guard the State's funds. The foregoing expressions from other brethren of the State press indicate quite clearly the correctness of our position.

Judge Liddon could never have received a five hundred-dollar fee for prosecuting Walter Taylor without an order of some kind from Governor Jennings and the approval thereof by the Comptroller. Were not both of these officials, who were presumed to know the law, guilty of collusion in the unlawful payment of that fee?

When the State printer rendered a bill for printing for the Adjutant-General for the sum of \$10, marking it "special" in order to cover up the fraud, the contract price of the work being one dollar, how could it have been paid to him, but for the collusion of the Comptroller in allowing the claim and issuing the warrant?

The Courier-Informant remarks that the Board of State Institutions is "quite as much to blame as the printer himself for unnecessary delay and poor work." We go much farther than this, and affirm, without the fear of contradiction, that every dollar paid out of the public treasury for such work as the State printer has been doing has been paid unlawfully; and that such payments could not have been made without collusion on the part of those who are charged with the solemn and sacred duty of protecting the public revenues of the State from the raids of the State printer, and of all others who seek to acquire the people's money unlawfully, or without due equivalent.

In a recent issue we remarked that the meetings, and the records of the same, of the executive boards of the State government are public property—as much so as the open sessions of the Legislature or the courts. Our system of government knows no such thing as "chamber" proceedings. Absolute and unrestricted publicity is one of the chief bulwarks of honest government. Things done in a corner or behind closed doors arouse suspicion. The people have an inalienable right to know just how the business of government is carried on by their chosen servants. The reasons for the adoption of governmental policies may be obscure or unexplained, but the official acts of the people's servants are public property.

We believe, not only that the State officials are responsible for the wrongful acceptance of defective work from the State printer, and for the unlawful payment therefor, but that every act of every executive board belonging to the State government should be made public, so that the people may know how their public business is conducted.

We will not officially announce any candidate for office, but our columns are open to all, and we will publish the announcement for any who may wish to enter the races at the usual rate, \$5.00 in advance for the full time. "Get the habit," and come a-running.

THE PLAIN TRUTH.

Editor Lafontisee of the Live Oak Daily Democrat makes an exhaustive review of Governor Broward's defense of the State pardoning board, as it appeared in the first issue of Claude L'Engle's Sun, in which, among other interesting things, he uses the following clear-cut language:

In referring to the pardon of a man sentenced to the penitentiary for life, the Governor proceeds to show that the courts were in error in convicting the prisoner. This is in fact the burden of his defense throughout, and shows on the part of the Governor of the State a disposition to place but little confidence in the courts of the State. This is a most unfortunate condition to exist in any State, and especially so when it is given weight by a declaration on the part of the highest authority in the State. In the case referred to, the defense went the limit of the courts, carrying the case to the Supreme Court after a trial which lasted for several days. During that trial the defendant was represented by able counsel and given every opportunity to establish his innocence or his claim to sanity. But he was found guilty by a jury of twelve men, in a county where he had resided for some time. That verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court. And now comes the Governor of the State and says that the courts were in error and that justice was not done. This is the feature of the Governor's exhaustive statement to which The Democrat takes exception. While the Governor has not said so in as many words, his defense is based on that plea as will be seen by a study of his article. When the people of a State learn to distrust the courts they lose confidence in the most important branch of government. The courts are the most sacred of our institutions, and should be upheld. At least the Governor of the State ought not to show a distrust in them. * * * If the pardoning board is to act on the basis laid down by the Governor, we had better do away with the courts and arrange matters so that the pardoning board can try criminals. The Governor would not have been forced to go much further in his defense to have made this suggestion.

Brother Collins, of the Tallahassee True Democrat, ought to take something to work off that dark brown taste to his editorials. It must be distressing for a person to be in his spirit week after week. It is just such melancholia as his that causes suicides and homicides. He should be carefully guarded and tenderly nursed back to a rational, normal spirit.—DeLand News.

Well, now, Brother Coddington, it isn't nearly as bad as you seem to imagine. The general health of The True Democrat's proprietor is quite as good as usual, thank you. His success in stirring up the public to a realizing sense of what has been going on in the State capitol for the past four or five years gives him the keenest satisfaction. He has his regular three meals a day, and there is a total lack of the "dark brown taste," which you mention with a degree of familiarity that indicates the existence of numerous blind tigers in your vicinity.

With the primary some six months in the future, politics are already on the move in some of the Florida counties. In Duval county, for instance, where a sheriff is to be elected, several candidates for the place have already announced, and in Leon county, Hon. W. A. Rawls and Hon. John W. Henderson have signified their desire for votes to represent that county in the State Senate. So, thus early is the campaign on in these counties.—Madison New Enterprise.

Leon county voters could have survived the absence of political agitation until the proper time for it rolled around next spring, but they were not allowed any choice in the matter, the announcement of Mr. Rawls for the Senate having been made by himself, or by Hilson in the Great Capital Publishing Company's powerful sheet, published under the shadow of the capitol, within a few days after the adjournment of the Legislature, and again some days later when that sheet was trying to tell its few readers what great things Mr. Rawls had done for the "dear people" as Representative of Leon county.

County Solicitor Geo. P. Raney, Jr., of Tampa, does not intend that all responsibility for the existence of gambling in that city shall rest upon him; and he has addressed an open letter to the sheriff of the county stating the facts and enumerating several well-known localities in the city where gambling is openly practiced, and asks the officer the pertinent question: "Why do you, as sheriff of this county, not take action in the premises?" More public officials like Judge Raney are badly needed in many localities in Florida. Why have laws on our statute books if public officers, chosen by the people for the express duty of enforcing the laws, refuse or neglect that duty? And why permit officers who do so to continue in office?

A tip to the State printer: Imitate McCurdy, of the New York Mutual, and resign before it is too late!

STATE PRINTING PROBLEM.

We reproduce the following from the columns of the Jacksonville Metropolis, head lines and all, in order that our readers may realize how the State printing problem appears to others:

LAWYERS ARE JUSTLY MAD
AT THE BOTCH WORK OF THE STATE PRINTER—THE WAVE OF REFORM THAT SHOULD CERTAINLY PROVE EFFECTIVE IN FLORIDA.

The People's Good Money Should Secure Good Work, and Not a Lot of Disgraceful Stuff That Subjects the State to Ridicule.

To the disgrace of Florida the members of the Legislature and other State officials have allowed the State printing to be the cause of much ridicule for the State and has subjected certain officials to serious charges.

So careless has the State printer become, so greedy for the profits, that the Bar Association of Jacksonville has taken up the matter and leading citizens all over the State, realizing the injustice, are now crying for a halt. They are justified in their demand for the right.

The people's money should not be spent for trashy and worthless work.

It is no excuse to say that the work is in ignorant and incompetent hands. The "man higher up"—the man who will allow such work to be given to unreliable people—should be held also accountable. The State printing is likely to be an issue in the next campaign, and it should be. A wave of reform is sweeping over the country, and it should strike with mighty force certain affairs in Florida.

THE PROTEST MADE.

Hons. C. M. Cooper, A. W. Coekrell and N. P. Bryan have been selected as a committee from the Jacksonville Bar Association to protest to Governor Broward against the shoddy work now being done on the Supreme Court reports, and it is understood they will tell Broward their opinion of the work today. The fact that the State printer was a supporter of Broward should cause the governor to insist more strenuously that the State of Florida be dealt with fairly and honorably.

To promise good workmanship and then produce cheap, disgraceful work is a form of graft that is cursing the nation today.

The State of Florida should not pay one dollar for the bad work already done. The next Legislature should see to it that this disgusting practice stops.

What does the administration propose to do about it?

Can it stand the charges of an outraged, honest people?

Governor Broward had even more reason than President Roosevelt to issue a Thanksgiving proclamation, for Florida is the most prosperous State in the Union, and is not troubled by scandal—insurance, political or of any other kind.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

Florida, truly, has much to be thankful for, but the Times-Union's Rip Van Winkle method of shutting its eyes to "scandal" which everybody else knows about, is nothing less than amusing. The "scandal" of the rotten State printing is only a small part of the shame brought upon the State by the Jennings administration, but it is, fortunately, one of the very few items that have survived to plague and distress the administration of Governor Broward. There was, too, an "insurance scandal," wherein a political favorite was permitted to enjoy a practical monopoly of the insurance patronage of the State, and although he was formerly a poor newspaper man, he is now a banker, like Jennings. And the Times-Union was—and is—in a position to know all of these things, only its extraordinary and unexplained policy appears to be to ignore them. Some day the causes of its peculiar behavior of silence will be made known.

A parody of a popular song entitled "Everybody Works But Mother" defeated a Republican county officeholder in Pennsylvania who had provided places for his family.—Independent.

Some Florida officials may have to answer for something of that kind, along with other things, before they will receive endorsement again for office at a primary election. More than one Florida officer has looked well after their families and political workers.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, predicts a strike in the coal mines for April of next year involving half a million operatives. If the strike doesn't materialize it will not be John's fault.

The Pensacola negro preacher, Croom, who had himself arrested for violation of the street car ordinance separating the races, was not released in the habeas corpus proceeding which ensued, and as bail was refused, he will have to serve his sentence while the case is being considered by the higher courts.

The appointment of H. H. Palmer to be superintendent of schools for Duval county is said to be an excellent one. Mr. Palmer is a close friend of Governor Broward, and was once a schoolmate of W. Jennings Bryan. These qualifications, however, may be regarded as somewhat incidental if, as is claimed, the appointee is otherwise fully qualified for the place.

BLIND TIGER LORE.

The Monticello News breaks forth into indignant protest at the open violation of the local option laws, as follows:

Liquor was sold here during court week without stint. The grand jury sat in solemn deliberation, the officers scurried to and fro with various handcuffed offenders against other statutes, but no person was indicted or tried for selling booze.

This is not the court's fault. It is the people's fault. Under license our two saloon men kept Jefferson county pretty dry, except under their own signs. They nabbed "buck" purveyors on the Georgia line, and corn-meal-mash moonshiners in the flatwoods. The officers secured evidence then, and got convictions too. Now, there is within easy reach of every village some distributing point for blind tiger liquor.

What a difference is there! No one dared sell liquor in competition with the licensed saloon men. Now no one dares move against the hundred violators of the liquor law. If two licensed saloon keepers could keep the rest of the county dry, it does seem that the officers of the law could do as well.

And they could if they had some help and co-operation.

Possibly similar causes prevent the punishment of violators of the law in Leon county. How is it?

The Tallahassee True Democrat continues to make keen-edged thrusts at certain parties connected with the recently happily defunct Jennings administration and who are connected with that of Governor Broward. That is hardly fair, Brother Collins; say who they are, so that the innocent shall not suffer with the guilty.—DeFuniak Breeze.

The True Democrat, as we have heretofore remarked, is not a court, a judge or jury, a prosecuting officer or an investigating committee. It has simply called public attention to certain transactions and given the sources of its information in the public records, which are open to all. No one has denied a single word that we have said or a single fact that we have cited. No one can do so without setting up a bare denial against the public records which we have cited. It is now up to public officers charged with the execution of the laws that have been violated, and the representatives of the people, whose duty it is to correct abuses, to take hold of the several matters involved and apply the proper remedies.

Concerning the recent charge of bad faith on the part of the State Board of Education made by the Times-Union, the DeLand News says:

The Times-Union should be more explicit. What was the promise made by the Board of Education? What was Lake City promised for her silence? And what harm is being done by appealing the matter to the Supreme Court? Does the T.-U. not know that the question as to the permanent location of the school will have to be settled by the Supreme Court before the Board of Control will feel justified in taking any definite action in one way or another, and that the people of Lake City and Gainesville both want it settled? The case is now before the Supreme Court, and will be decided on its merits, not in accordance with public clamor.

Congressman Lamar has begun a vigorous and active campaign for renomination for a third term, and is now engaged in a speaking tour throughout the district, telling his constituents about the wonderful things he expects to do for them at Washington. We take little interest in his career as a candidate, for we believe that when the time comes what the voters of the third district will do to him will be "a-plenty" to overcome the half vote by which he secured the nomination the first time. His official connection with the discredited Jennings administration is alone sufficient to condemn him, now that some of the facts connected therewith have been brought to light—since his second nomination. We have not heard that in his speeches he makes any explanation of the wasteful Jennings sales of Internal Improvement lands, or of the vindictiveness with which he—and Jennings—prosecuted Walter Taylor.

An immediate transfer from the Senate of the United States to a Federal prison is the prospect that stares Senator Burton in the face. This wave of reform strikes hard when it strikes.—Times-Union, 27th. Yes, and its spreading out all over this great country and is coming towards Florida.

Doctors Could Not Help Her.
"I had kidney trouble for years," writes Mrs. Raymond Conner, of Shelton, Wash., "and the doctors could not help me. I tried Foley's Kidney Cure, and the very first dose gave me relief and I am now cured. I cannot say too much for Foley's Kidney Cure." It makes the diseased kidneys sound so they will eliminate the poisons from the blood. Unless they do this, good health is impossible. Sold by all dealers.